10th September 1960]

Dr. A. Sreenivasan : Is it not the duty of the Hon. Minister to peruse the report?

Mr. Chairman : We have passed on to the next question.

Control of malaria

* 143 *Q.*—Dr. A. Sreenivasan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether spraying operation has been carried on in the control of malaria in the State; and

(*b*) if so, in what places and the result thereof?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The entire State has been covered by D.D.T. spraying since 1959–60. The progress of malaria control has been satisfactory and there has been a decline in malaria cases.

Dr. A. Sreenivasan : How did the Government come to the conclusion that it is on the decline?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : The percentage of malaria cases in 1957–58 was 7.7, in 1958–59 it was 2.4 and in 1959–60 it was 0.77. I think that is sufficient indication that the thing is coming down.

Sri S. Natarajan : Has there been an increase in filaria cases during this period?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : No. We cannot say so. Probably the hon. Member has in mind what happened in Kumbakonam. It was a rare feature, and it was controlled. We cannot say generally that because we control malaria there is filaria.

Dr. A. Sreenivasan : Does the Hon. Minister place much reliance on the statistics since most of the patients go to private practitioners and get themselves cured with anti-malarial synthetics? I think the statistics cannot be correct.

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : Even allowing a latitude for that, I think we have made sufficient progress.

2-C tax (tree tax)

* 144 *Q.*—Dr. A. Sreenivasan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have enhanced the 2-C tax (Tree tax) and, if so, the reasons for such enhancement?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : Yes, Sir.

The rates of tree tax have been enhanced in view of the prevailing high rates of the usufructs of the trees like tamarind, mango, jack, etc., the original rates fixed years back having no relation to current prices.